

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A congestion control method and apparatus in a cell-switched data switch. The switch attaches a tag with a discard processing indicator, such as a particular random number, to all cells belonging to a same packet. In determining which cells to drop when running a congestion control algorithm such as RED, the switch compares the discard processing indicator of the cells with a discard criterion and only drops cells that conform with the discard criterion.

10

15

20

25

30

35